

REMARKS

Claim 14 is pending in the application. The Applicants wish to thank Examiner Luk for the telephone interview with the Applicants' representative, Attorney Thomas S. Reynolds II, on October 21, 2003. The substance of that interview is discussed below.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kutik (USPN 3,577,843) in view of Eto (USPN 5,849,344). The Examiner argues that Kutik discloses:

[An] apparatus having two plates forming a shared cavity (34), two pins (38, 50) situated in the cavity, each pin having a shape for undercuts (32, 38), means responsive to a complete opening of the mold (Fig. 7), the pins able to have partial movement from the plates (Fig. 7). When the plates are closed, the pins are aligned to form a bore (Fig. 2).

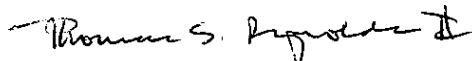
First, it was established during the telephone conference that the "undercuts" to which Examiner Luk is referring are indicated by reference numerals 52 and 48 in the Figures of Kutik and not reference numerals 32 and 38 as cited by Examiner Luk. Referring to column 2, line 70 of Kutik, the reference numeral "52" is used to indicate an undercut. However, referring to column 2, line 51 of Kutik, the reference numeral "48" refers to a "flute." Kutik does not disclose two pins each "having a shape for molding an undercut region," as recited in Claim 14 of the present application. The "flute" indicated by reference numeral 48 in Kutik is not an "undercut," as that term is used in Claim 14 of the present application or as that term is used in Kutik itself.

Second, in addition to not disclosing two pins, each "having a shape for molding an undercut," Kutik fails to disclose several other limitations of Claim 14 that are important for creating a mold that can mold a part having two undercuts, as claimed in the present invention.

Among other things, Kutik does not disclose holes "enabling said mold to partially open without pulling said pins from said undercut regions" or structure for molding a part that "is retained on said first pin after leaving the first plate for further mold release and on said second pin after leaving the second plate before being ejected from said mold."

For these and other reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection and allowance of Claim 14. The undersigned is available for additional telephone consultation at any time.

Respectfully submitted,



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